

First place winner will receive two roundtrip tickets to Washington, D.C., and will be honored at reception with youth from across the country

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Washington, DC – Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) today announced a request for submissions to the 2011 Congressional Art Competition, An Artistic Discovery. All local high school students in the 17th Congressional District are invited to participate by submitting up to three pieces of original student artwork.

Entries must be submitted to Congressman Sam Farr's Salinas or Santa Cruz District offices, by May 6, 2011. Submitted entries will be judged at a reception on May 16, 2011 at Rancho Cielo Youth Campus, 710 Old Stage Road, Salinas, CA 93908.

"I want to challenge Central Coast high school students to join youth across the country in opening their creative minds and discovering their artistic talents," said Congressman Farr. "I am proud to play a role in this important competition and I strongly believe that art allows students to think outside the box to solve problems and fosters creativity. The arts are integral part of our nation's cultural fabric, and I am thrilled to once again invite our talented to students to join in the 2011 Congressional Art Competition."

The first place winner will receive two roundtrip tickets to Washington, D.C. from Southwest Airlines, and will join students from across the country to be honored at a reception in Washington, D.C. in mid-June. The winning student's artwork will also be displayed in the Capitol for a year.

Artwork must be original, two-dimensional and when framed cannot be larger than 28 inches x 28 inches x 4 inches. Categories for competition include paintings, drawings, collage, prints, mixed media, computer generated art and photography.

The Artistic Discovery competition encourages and recognizes the rich artistic talents of young Americans. Students are allowed to submit various styles and types of art, ranging from paintings and drawings to photography and mixed media pieces. The winners will be determined using criteria based on originality, skill of execution, excellence in use of materials and conceptual strength of the project.

The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. Since then, over 650,000 high school students have been involved with the nation-wide competition.

To view the 2011 Congressional Art Competition guidelines please visit, <http://goo.gl/sxmWQ> . Additionally, all participants must submit a release form with their art work that can be accessed at,

<http://goo.gl/FiuLe>

For further questions and full details, please contact Bertha Munoz in Congressman Farr's Salinas' office at 831-424-2229. All submissions are due by May 6, 2011.

Last year, Georgiana Bruce Kirby Preparatory School student from Santa Cruz, Hanna Seltz, was awarded first place for her entry, titled "Buejuv, Zanzibar". To view last year winning painting visit, <http://goo.gl/DsJ>

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